

**Columbia Law School  
Appellate Advocacy  
Spring 2009  
Judge Sotomayor**

**Course Description**

The class combines an externship in the chambers of a Second Circuit Judge with approximately eight class sessions. Judge Sotomayor leads the class sessions and also supervises three externs. Work with the Judge involves legal research, analysis, and writing regarding cases pending before the Second Circuit. The class sessions are taught in a variety of styles. Several classes involve lectures by Judge Sotomayor on topics such as standards of review, federal jurisdiction, and appellate advocacy. Other classes involve distinguished guest speakers who discuss various aspects of appellate practice. In other sessions, students discuss their externship experiences. Finally, there is a moot court exercise in which students argue before Second Circuit Judges.

**Class Schedule**

January 21, 2009:      Orientation Class (Judge Sotomayor)

January 28, 2009:      Standards of Review (Judge Sotomayor)

February 11, 2009:    Immigration Law (guest lecturer, Eva Saltzman)

February 18, 2008:    District Court Judges as Guest Speakers (guest lecturers, Judges Raymond Dearie and Robert Chatigny)

February 25, 2009:    Moot Court Prep Class (Judge Sotomayor)

March 25, 2009:      Moot Court (Judges Pooler, Sotomayor, and Koeltl)

April 15, 2009:       “Judging” Wrap-Up Class

April 22, 2009:       Civil Advocates as Guest Speakers (guest lecturers, Professor Charles Fried and Mr. Norman Pattis)

**Class Readings, Moot Court Prep**

Joseph F. Anderson, Jr., *Setting Yourself Apart from the Herd: A Judge's Thoughts on Successful Courtroom Advocacy*, 50 S.C. L. Rev. 617 (1999)

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, *Remarks on Appellate Advocacy*, 50 S.C. L. Rev. 567 (1999)

Harold K. Gordon, *Career Development: Preparing for Oral Argument*, N.Y. L.J., Sept. 30, 2005, available at <http://www.law.com/jsp/nylj/PubArticleNY.jsp?id=1127984710422>

Stephen A. McEwen, *Barrister's Tips: Preparing Yourself for Oral Argument*, Los Angeles Lawyer, June 2002, at 8, available at <http://www.lacba.org/Files/LAL/Vol25No4/1156.pdf>

John G. Roberts, Jr., *Thoughts on Presenting an Effective Oral Argument*, School in Law Review 7-1 (1997), available at <http://www.nsba.org/site/docs/36400/36316.pdf>

Ronald J. Rychlak, *Effective Appellate Advocacy: Tips from the Teams*, 66 Miss. L.J. 527 (1997)

Richard H. Seamon, *Preparing for Advocacy in the United States Supreme Court*, 50 S.C. L. Rev. 603 (1999)

Jason Vail, *Oral Argument's Big Challenge: Fielding Questions from the Bench*, 1 J. App. Prac. & Process 401 (1999)